



## President's Message

Kathie Gaylord



Dear Friends,

Mark your calendars now for **Friday, May 13**. This will be our annual meeting and I hope you will plan to attend. After a short business meeting, well-known Los Gatan, **Lea Frey** will be our speaker.

## New Major Donations

*by Pamela Laurence*

Friends of the Library received two extremely large donations recently—from **Dick Zee** and **Monique Ouellette** and the family of **Dorin Dickson**.

The **Ouellettes** moved from their mountain home to smaller digs in San Jose. Because they were downsizing, we received a bounty of books—which included 20 years worth of Dick's railroad magazines. Another largesse came from the estate of **Dorin Dickson**. She was a history teacher with a minor in library science, so she, too, had amassed a gigantic library. Her daughters, **Kennon Hudson** and **Nion Dickson**, brought in her large collection, numbering some 3,000 books. We thank them very much for thinking of the Friends and donating in these large collections. They will be enjoyed by many.

# president

Lea taught French, German, Spanish, and English at Fisher Middle School in Los Gatos for nearly a quarter of a century. She is the author of ***Dear Voices***, which has been selected as the town-wide read for Los Gatos for 2005. Copies are available in the library. The book is based on a collection of letters exchanged over half a century by four friends scattered throughout the country who rally to support a comrade, imprisoned for armed robbery.

This is a very interesting and inspiring story, and **proceeds from the sale of the book are all being donated to Friends Outside**. I hope you will join us on May 13.

## Book sales

Total for the **January** used book sales was **\$3,034**, a combination of the book sale shelves in the library and the special Saturday sale in Town Council lobby. **February** drew a **\$1,143** total; and **March** pulled in a disappointing **\$988**.

Dates for the remaining special book sales for the year are:

**April 16**  
**July 16**  
**October 15**

## Financial Report

Friends of the Library reports a total of \$121,964 in the treasury as of April 6. Savings account amounts to \$76,084; maximizer account shows \$41,591; and checking account balance is \$4,289.

## Proposed slate of new officers

President . . . . .Maureen O'Connell  
Vice President . . . . .Kathie Gaylord  
Recording Secretary . .Carol Hamilton  
Corresponding Secretary  
. . . . .Heather Cady  
Treasurer . . . . .Ray Clark  
Programs . . . . .Virginia O'Reilly  
Membership . . . . .Judy Etherington  
Book Sales . . . . .Marge Rice  
Grant Writer . . . . .Rita Baum  
Newsletter Editor . . . . .M.A. Cook  
Hospitality . . . . .Doris Epstein  
. . . . .and Jean Nelson  
Parliamentarian . . . . .Dale Hill  
Publicity . . . . .Pamela Laurence  
Archivist . . . . .Jean Nelson  
Directors at large: . .Martha Alderson  
. . . . .Joanne Crum  
. . . . .Gwen Davis  
. . . . .Lilo Campeau  
. . . . .Amanda Jaramillo  
Off-Board:  
Member database . . . .Kathy Cusick  
Newsletter design . .Patt Mann-Berry

## Bylaw addition

VII Directors

H. Executive Committee

1. Composition: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer and the Parliamentarian. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

2. Duties: The Executive Committee shall transact emergency business between meetings of the Board of Directors. The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting for ratification.



## Summer reading clubs

Look forward to lots of summer fun at the library June 1-July 31. Summer Reading Clubs are open to children aged 0-17.

Three new programs will be introduced:

**Kids' Book Club for 4th-5th graders**  
**Kids' Book Club for 6th-7th graders**  
**Teens Read to Kids**

These new programs are in addition to the popular Summer Reading Club: reading for pleasure and prizes, finding hidden objects, recommending favorite books and taking part in weekly drawings. For more information, the children's room number is 354-6893.



## Plea for Volunteers

**Volunteer coordinator Susan Buxton sends out a plea for grandparents to participate in the Grandparents and Books reading program.** Participants spend one day a month from 3-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday reading to pre-school youngsters. Training is provided. Experienced readers are needed or the program is in danger of folding. Please call **Susan Buxton** at 354-6824.

# children

## Young Writers Workshop at Shelter

**Martha Alderson** and some of her Friends' assistants (**Carol Hamilton, Rita Baum, Lilo Campeau, Amanda Jaramillo and Kathie Gaylord**) will be presenting a Young Writer's Workshop in late April at the San Jose Children's Shelter for the first time.

Joining Martha is **Teresa LeYung Ryan**, author of the mother/daughter novel ***Love Made of Heart***, who says she's an 8-year-old at heart.

Creative writing has proven to be a therapeutic tool and strong support for the traumatized, displaced or lonely. It's one way of increasing self esteem and expressing one's inmost feelings and experiences.

As Alderson herself expresses it, "It's mostly about making sure that in this fast-paced life of accumulating material success that we remember those not so fortunate. In stopping and giving back to those whose lives are shattered—temporarily at least—my hope is that the outreach will make all of our members feel like they have done their part in helping others simply by supporting the Friends and our programs."



## Children's programs

**Thursday, June 2, 3:30 p.m.**

Magician Timothy James  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, June 9, 3:30 p.m.**

Bonzai the Juggling Tornado  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, June 16, 3:30 p.m.**

Caterpillar Puppets  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, June 23, 6:45 p.m.**

Family Night: Magician Gerald Joseph  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, June 30, 3:30 p.m.**

Sing-a-long with Tim Cain  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, July 7, 3:30 p.m.**

Duct Tape Art with Diana  
Meet at the Teen Zone  
*Ages 12 and up only*

**Thursday, July 14, 6:45 p.m.**

Family Night: Music around the World with Julie Wong  
*Ages 0-6*

**Thursday, July 21, 3:30 p.m.**

Swazzle Puppets  
*Ages 4 and up*

**Thursday, July 28, 3:30 p.m.**

Afternoon Laughter with Steve Chaney and Cornelius Crow  
*Ages 5 and up*

Friends of the Library funds all the children's programs throughout the year.



# New books in the Library

## Fiction

***The Ha-Ha* by Dave King**

Howard has not spoken for 30 years, since being injured in the Army. His high school sweetheart, Sylvia, is a single mom who needs care for her 9-year old son. Son Ryan is the boy who changes Howard's life forever.

***The Turtle Warrior* by Mary Relindes Ellis**

This debut novel revolves around two brothers, their parents and neighbors, and the family farm in northern Wisconsin. With his older brother gone and his father incapacitated, it falls to the younger brother, Bill, to protect his mother and hold onto the farm.

# eBay sales add to coffers

*by Dale Hill*

As the Friends volunteers sort through the books donated by local residents, those which appear to be collectable or unusually valuable are set aside for further research. **Pamela Laurence** has become quite expert in determining first editions and discovering what commercial used book dealers are charging. Those that seem that they might bring a higher price than we charge at the book sales or have a specialized appeal are saved for listing on eBay auctions.

Since I began listing on eBay in July 2001, these sales have earned **\$10,500** for the Friends, all of which goes to enhance library services and equipment.

# books

***The Edge of the Sky* by Drusilla Campbell**

Upon the sudden death of her husband, Lana finds herself a single parent to her two teenage daughters. Life becomes additionally complicated when the birth father of the younger, adopted daughter appears on the scene.

## Non-Fiction

***The Obesity Myth* by Paul Campos**

Author Campos has spent years scrutinizing medical studies and interviewing leading health specialists. In this book he puts forth the argument that we can safeguard our health without obsessing about the numbers on the scale.

***The Book Nobody Read* by Owen Gingerich**

It was said that copies of Copernicus' great posthumous book, which showed the sun, not the earth, to be the center of our solar system, were never actually read. In a detective search decades long, author Gingerich recreates the history of thought in 16th and 17th century Europe from annotations in the many copies of the book which he found.

***The End of Oil* by Paul Roberts**

Even by conservative estimate we will have burned through most of the easily accessible oil on our planet within the next thirty years. How will we break our global addiction to oil, and what will replace it?

The advantage of using eBay is that we reach a wider audience—literally all over the world, including collectors seeking certain authors or vintage books.

The downside is that the auction only lasts seven days(although re-listing is possible) and that the process is time consuming. But it is fun, and can be done at home in whatever time is available.

We appreciate your donations of books, and we try to get the most value from your generosity.

# Library Director's Corner

*Peggy Conaway*



The proposed town budget for 2005/06 went to the Town Council on March 7. The town continues to face the challenges inherent in increased costs coupled with the economic downturns experienced in recent years.

For the coming fiscal year, all departments were asked to prepare recommendations for budget cuts, while at the same time preserving core service levels to the best of our ability.

For the library, the proposal includes a staff restructuring, with the reduction of one principal librarian position.

To compensate for this reduction, we propose to train other staff to assume the duties of the lost position, to promote self-service, and to streamline our technological resources.

March was an especially busy month at the library. The library's integrated computer system, Dynix's Horizon, was upgraded.

I attended a two-day meeting at the California State Library organized by the new **State Librarian, Susan Hildreth**, which addressed issues that public libraries are facing, and what the State Library can do to help.

Before she replaced **Dr. Kevin Starr**, Susan was director of San Francisco Public Library, and brings an enormous amount of experience and expertise to Sacramento.

# director

**Dean Joy's** program on his book, ***Sixty Days in Combat***, was well attended March 18. Mr. Joy engaged the audience with his vivid memories of WW II. Author **Martha Alderson** moderated the program.

**Paul Kopach**, history librarian, and I took our history photo presentation to ***We and Our Neighbors Club*** for their 106th birthday party, and also to **The Terraces**.

On March 31, local author **Joan Schreiner** presented a program titled ***Taking Charge***, and shared her excellent insights on the necessity of forming an active partnership with your physicians when faced with a health crisis.

In mid-March we entertained visitors from our Sister City in Ireland, Listowel, in County Kerry, and I enjoyed reading to a class of 4th graders at the Van Meter School Read-In.

Our local history project continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Recent contributors have included the **Cilker family**, whose ranch was located on the land now occupied by Good Samaritan Hospital, and whose family roots in Los Gatos extend well back into the 19th century.

**Nadine Caperton** and **Lena Barbieri Conley** have each contributed wonderful images of Los Gatos in the 1940s and 1950s.

**Chuck Bergtold**, a longtime Los Gatos antique dealer and art collector, has generously given us permission to digitize his amazing collection of Los Gatos photos and ephemera, dating from the 1870s. I thank them all for their contribu-

tions to the preservation and dissemination of our history.

**Valerie Archer** and **John Wainwright** of **Lyric Media** in Los Gatos are hard at work on a one-hour documentary film about Los Gatos, to be released this summer. The film will include hundreds of historic images, and contrast them to today's Los Gatos. Watch for a short preview at the CineCats Showcase in May. I hope to show the documentary in Listowel in June, at their 35th Annual Writers' Week festival. Volunteer **Dudley Warner** is also working hard on our history, with the development of our local history database, which will be available over the Web in future months.

Work will soon resume on the Civic Center and Library Master Plan. This long-awaited document will show the way toward improved town facilities, including the library.

And finally, **please join us in our annual town-wide read, exploring Lea Frey's *Dear Voices*. An informal discussion will be held on May 10 at 7 p.m. at the library, followed by Ms. Frey's presentation in Council Chambers on May 13.** Multiple copies of ***Dear Voices***, are available for check-out at the library.

# Forever a Friend of the Library

You can forever be remembered as a lover of books and a friend of the library by naming Friends of Los Gatos Public Library in your will. Call the Friends message phone line for more information at 399-5700.



## Friend Indeed: Madison Lea Dias

by Mary Ann Cook

The youngest member of the used book sale team is **Madison Dias**, who is 15 and a freshman at St. Francis High School in Mountain View. Madison has been manning the checkout table at the sales for at least three years—since she was 12.

She is the granddaughter of board member **Carol Hamilton** and they share the same middle name, Lea, in honor of Carol. Madison is a quiet, self-contained individual so she stunned her family when she volunteered to read a poem at the annual St. Mary's Talent Show—when she was in first grade.

At Friends book sales she is businesslike and thorough. She's good at math and enjoys raking in the money for

Friends' coffers. Hanging out (with grandma) and helping out (the Friends) rank right up there for favorite things to do. But her hobbies are wide ranging and include gymnastics and jazz dance at the Campbell Community Center. She's gone on field trips to Agnews to help the developmentally disabled youngsters there attend church.



Madison likes drama and intends to try out for St. Francis productions in the future. Her ultimate goal is to be a chef, but she didn't mention any trial cooking, such as meals for her family, which includes mother Susan and three older sisters.

The family live in Los Gatos. Madison's oldest sister, Lacey, is at Chico State and her two other sisters, Sarah and Amanda, are students at St. Francis. Their father, Joaquin, lives in Felton.

Madison makes it more delightful for everyone—workers and customers alike—at the Friends' book sales.

# Preserving our past



## Election Day Los Gatos 1883

This group of Los Gatans is standing at the corner of Oak Street (changed to Front Street in 1895, and now Montebello Way) and Main Street, looking east. The tall building to the right has a sign reading "Wilcox House." The building housed the Commercial Bank, which burned to the ground in the great fire of 1901 and was replaced in 1904 with the Rankin Block. Notes at the bottom of the photo indicate that the "Prohibition Ranks" were present, but also that a man could signal "3 winks for whiskey straight." F.W. Crandall, a local orchardist, stands in front of the flag, holding a petition.

The fight over prohibition, between the "wets" and the "drys" started in Los

Gatos in the 1880s and was only partially resolved by 1910, when it was agreed that liquor could be sold, but only "with bonafide meals in hotels and restaurants." Local legend recalls that in 1889 there were nine "tippling places" in town, when the town fathers decided they must be licensed. The ruling apparently proved difficult to enforce.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was a very important force in early Los Gatos, organized in 1885. Members included a Who's Who of local women: **Mrs. W. S. McMurtry, Mrs. R. Moody, Mrs. W. S. Walker, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Grey.** The photo is labeled *Election Day Los Gatos 1883*.

—Photo courtesy of The Museums of Los Gatos

## Meet the Staff: Diane Otter

by Rita Baum

"We all have to know how to do everything in a small library," says cataloger/reference librarian **Diane Otter**. And, although she spends five hours a day cataloging and three hours as reference librarian, Otter calls herself a reference librarian who happens to catalog.

Diversified duties are a must, she says, because "If someone is sick any one of us might have to fill in at a job." When a new book comes in Diane is responsible for assigning a number to it. Many books may already have one, but if not, she's the one who makes sure all books are grouped in the right subject area of the collection. Fiction is grouped alphabetically by author. Sometimes reference work and cataloging can be done at the same time if all's quiet on the reference desk.

Frequently asked reference questions often relate to current issues, such as medical matters. "But students, both high school and elementary, are getting harder and more specific homework assignments," she says. For example, a student is not just assigned to report on the Revolutionary War, but on a milliner's work in that period.

Or the assignment may be a report on a specific body part, such as the skin or lungs, or a listing such as the chemical table. And, for controversial subjects, advanced students may have to research both fiction and non-fiction works.

"The wealth of online resources have made the reference librarian's job easier in some ways, but more challenging in others," Otter says. One new task is to attune patrons to the many online resources available. But the most fun and satisfying part of Diane's job is when she finds the answer to tough and bizarre questions.

This woman with the answers lives in Bonnie Doon and has three grown children: One daughter is a librarian in Los Angeles and the other two offspring are in grad schools, one in music, one in American studies. Otter loves her job and believes that the more you put into it, the more you get out of your work—and, in Diane's case, that's quite a lot.

